RE-OPENING OF THE ABOLITION AGITATION.

Revival of War Against the Pugitive Slave Law.

The Probable Independent Nomination of General Scott by the Free Soil Whigh.

Movements of Senators Seward and Hale. &c., &c., &c.

New York Slave Catchers.

[From the New York Tribune, April 2.]
It is but a few weeks since, Mr. Secretary Webster stood up before an audience in this city, and with all due solemnity and impressiveness, declared to the listening thousands that the American constitution is "founded on the basis of equal rights—the provisions secure perfect equality and freedom to all; all who live under it are equal—all enjoying the same privileges." the same privileges."
Let a few facts serve by way of commentary or

this lofty oracle :A black man named Horace Preston, residing in A black man named Horace Preston, residing in Milliamsburg, and earning an honest living by his ewn work, married to a woman most devotedly attached to kim, was arrested the other day by a member of our Sixth ward police, named James Martin. The arrest was made on an utterly frivolous protext; it was charged that he had committed a larceny, that the witnesses against him would be forthcoming; and accordingly he was incarcerated until they might be produced. But that nothing might occur to render imperfect this illustration of American equality before the law, and American respect for personal rights, he was hustled into the lock-up of the Sixth ward station in the lower part of the Tombs, not under the control of the regular warden of that prison, and kept there in a manner which might not disgrace the justice of Persia or Tartary, but is a foul blot on New York. The offence charged was a bailable one; ample bail was offered, but it was refused. The worst of criminals—a pirate, a murderer, a violator of helpless weman—is allowed to see counsel and prepare for his defence; a legal gentleman of the highest respectability, having, after long search, discovered the place of this man's sequestration, went there and demanded to see him as counsel, but was turned away from the door, and was not even allowed to see the warrant upon which he was immured. Such Such is the justice in New York meted out. Such

there and demanded to see him as counsel, but was turned away from the door, and was not even allowed to see the warrant upon which he was immured. Buch is the justice in New York meted out. Such is the respect for personal rights which officers of the law here exhibit. Such that equality of privileges of which Mr. Webster so pompously boasted. But the morrow developed a new phase of the affair. The charge of larceny was laid aside, to give place to the charge of slavery. The alleged their of other people's property was supplanted by the theft of his own person and his own freedom. The man was a slave, and had stolen his liberty. That was all. And, in order to gain time to seize him for this offence, the charge of stealing had been trumped up, and the man had been grabbed and treated worse than if he had been guilty of the most infernal and unnatural crimes; and finally he was taken before Commissioner Morton, in an out-of-theway place, near the United States Court Rooms, where a pile of wood nearly blocked up the entrance, and there the examination was commenced, with no time was allowed him to consult with the negre, or to examine the papers on which he was held. The slavecwner had rights, but the presumptive freeman none.

It seems that the active agents in this foul busi-

It seems that the active agents in this foul business were Policeman Martin and one Richard Busteed, a lawyer, of this city. They had tracked out the fagitive, and had informed the man, Rees, of Baltimere, who claims to be the owner of the negro, that his chattel was here, and could be caught. They telegraphed to him that the trap was ready, and that he must be on the spot to take the prey when it was ensnared. More than this, Busteed himself, in order to make sure of his reward, voluntarily went before the Commissioner and made the affidavit on which the man was held as a fugitive slave. Not content with the part of slaveowner's counsel and advocate—of itself sufficient, one would suppose, to satisfy an ambition of ordinary scope in the way of meanness and dishonor—he must put himself forward as the primary evidence in the premises. And in this affidavit—drawn with his own hand, if we mistake not—he swore to the whole claim of the alleged owner, not as a matter of hear-It seems that the active agents in this foul busimises. And in this affidavit—drawn with his own hand, if we mistake not—he swore to the whole claim of the alleged owner, not as a matter of hear-say or opinion, but absolutely, and as of his own positive knowledge. And yet it did not appear that he had, at the time of swearing, any other proof on the subject than the statement of Mr. Rees, that he was the owner of such a ranaway. Suppose Rees had claimed to be the proprietor of any other free-man?

had claimed to be the proprietor of any other freeman?

But enough of such bloodhounds and jackalls of
slacery. Enough of beings so miserably mean and
inhuman as to make a business of seeking out men
engaged in honest pursuits, tearing them from
heartbroken wives and children, and sending them
into bondage. Enough of Martins and Busteeds,
ereatures that crawl so low that public contempt
cannot reach, nor public disgust and aversion affect
them. The space of an infamous statute, they do
the work for which it has engendered and produced
them. But we, who believe in liberty, who talk of
its blessings, who descant on the glory of its attainment, who declaim on the equality of rights and
universal justice it establishes, ought at least to see
that these slave catchers do not succeed in prostint,
ing all other laws, and overriding all the barriers of
justice, in the presecution of their accursed trade. ing all other laws, and overriding all the barrier-justice, in the presecution of their accursed trade.

Presidential Speculations—The Position of the Whig Party.

[From the New York Daily Times.]

General Taylor became President in the spring of 1849. He had been nominated against the wish of the great body of Northern whigs, who distrusted his position on the question of slavery. It was represented by his friends in the Northern States, with earnestness and success, that he was set to be numbered among the pre-slavery ultraists States, with earnestness and success, that he was mot to be numbered among the pro-slavery ultraists of the South,—that he regarded slavery as an evil—that he would protect with equal and impartial justice, the rights of all sections of the Union, and that he would not veto a bill prohibiting the extension of slavery into the new territories, if such a bill should be passed by Congress. Active whigs, in every part of the Northern States, advocated the election of General Taylor, on the ground that he was far more distinctly pledged to sanction a law excluding slavery from the new territories, than Gen. Cass. Mr. Webster urged his election on these grounds. And Mr. Fillmore was nominated for Vice President, mainly to strengthen General Taylor, in precisely those localities where the anti-elavery feeling was most prevalent and powerful. It was under such circumstances, and by such influences, that New York and New England gave their votes for General Taylor, and made him President. His advent to office was the signal for a conspiracy on the part of some of his Southern supporters, to drive him from the position in which the course of the canvass had placed him, and to force him to subserviency to their sectional views. At the first whis Congressional eaguen after his election, a

of the canvass had placed him, and to force him to subscryiency to their sectional views. At the first whig Congressional caucus after his election, a resolution was urged by Messrs, Toombs, Stephens and Clingman, declaring that the whig party re-nounced and discarded the principle of excluding slavery by law from the newly acquired territories. Its adoption was resisted by Messrs. Brooks, Duer, and others, recognised as Northern whigs, and it was rejected. Those who had offered it then took up a position of "armed neutrality," menacing the was rejected. Those who had offered it then took up a position of "armed neutrality," menacing the whig party with descrition and hostility, unless it should assent to their requisitions, and abandon for-ever the free soil principle. Some of these gentle-men waited upon General Taylor, and informed him very explicitly of their demands, and of their purposes in case those demands should be rejected. The President, meantime, pursued a steady, firm, and just course of policy. A very warm contest took place in the distribution of offices throughout the place in the distribution of offices throughout the country, and in no State was it warmer than in New York. On one side were the friends of Mr. Seward—then the only whig Senator from the State—on the other were his opponents. Gen. Taylor made his appointments with a sincere desire to meet the views of the whole party, without giving any section of it just grounds for displeasure. He placed all the important offices, especially in this city, in the hands of Mr. Seward's most determined opponents, and appointed one marshal and several postmasters in the interior from among his friends. The fact that he recognized Senator Seward as a whig at all, aroused the bitter hostility of the small but energetic party which had pre-ordained his destruction. Mr. Fillmore was carefully instructed to believe that the State of New York was not large enough for both, and that every actrecognizing Mr. Seward as entitled to any influence in the distribution of public patronage, was a blow of hostility aimed at him.

Ill feeling was thus fomented in the whig party.

to any influence in the distribution of public patronage, was a blow of hostility aimed at him.

Ill feeling was thus fomented in the whig party. The purpose of the Southern ultraists to force the administration into their views, or break it down, was steadily pursued. And the introduction by Senator Foote, of the compromise measures, afforded another opportunity for its prosecution. Senator Foote, and those who noted with him, demanded that the admission of California, the enactment of laws for governing the territories, the settlement of the Texas boundary dispute, and a new Fugitive Slave law should all be regarded and passed as one measure—as a binding compact—a compromise be-Shave law should all be regarded and passed as one measure—as a binding compact—a compromise between conflicting claims. President Taylor was opposed to this mode of settling these questions, as founded upon, wrong principles, as setting a mischievous procedent, and as calculated to aggravate the evils it professed to cure.

Senator Seward opposed Mr. Foote's teheme, I voted against it, as did more than half the delegation from the State of New York in the other through the action the Southern consultators.

Upon this action the Southern conspirators as giving them a new chance of breaking Mr. Seward and those whige of the North

whose views on this question he was presumed to represent. The Republic, established and recognised as the executive organ, denounced Mr. Seward's speech with the utmost warmth, repudiated his sentiments and ejected him and his friends summarily from the whig party. This was not a mereexpression of individual opinion. The Republic acted as the organ of the conspirators, who had determined either to rule or ruin the administration. A simultaneous crusade, personal as well as political, and marked with the utmost malignity, was waged upon Mr. Seward. The President was to be driven into an open repudiation of him and his friends, and nothing was left undone which it was supposed could tontribute to this result. Gen. Taylor did not succumb to these menaces. Instead of sanctioning the course of the Republic, he repudiated that paper, and enforced the withdrawal of its editors, who gave place to others. Messrs. Bullitt and Sargent, who had led the assault upon Senator Seward and his friends, were succeeded by Mr. Hall, who sought to restore harmony to the party by treating all its sections and members with just respect.

The death of Gen. Taylor changed the whole aspect of public affairs. Mr. Fillmore became President. The compromise bills were represented as the adopted measures of his administration. The tendency of affairs in the whig ranks was turned back. Mr. Hall withdrew from the Republic, and the maligners of Mr. Seward were reinstated. The attacks upon him were renewed with fresh vigor and redoubled bitterness. No terms of hatred and approbium were too extravagant to be heaped upon him, upon his principles and his friends. He was denounced as a traitor to the Union, and an enemy of the constitution. Respect for, or support of him, in any degree, or to any extent, upon personal or political grounds—any hesitation in joining the crusade against him, was branded as a forfeiture of party standing. The whigs of New York, by whom he had been twice elected to the highest office in their gift, and who had sent him t

And all this had an official sanction. The immediate organs and representatives of the President led the chase, and his remote supporters echoed the cry. A whig State Convention, which was assembled for the nomination of State officers, passed the customary resolution of compliment to the Whig Senator in Congress; this act led to the open secession of part of the delegates, and to an open rupturo in the whig party. A new convention was called—new principles were proclaimed—Senator Seward and his friends were denounced, and for all their doings, the actors in these proceedings claimed, without contradiction, the direct countenance and authority of the President.

The whole patronage of the executive department was thrown into the same scale. The chief actors in this violent disruption of the whig party were rewarded by lucrative and honorable appointments. New organs were established, and old ones re-tuned, for the express purpose of waging war upon those whigs who declined to join in this crusade. Whigs appointed to office by President Taylor were required either to use their power for the destruction of Mr. Seward, or to give place to others who would. The whole official power of this port was brought to bear directly upon this point. The Collector, the Sub-Treasurer, the Naval Office—all the heads of office here, proscribed, relentlessly, every whig who would not join in this internecine strife. Inspectors, night watchmen—officers of every grade, true whigs, who have always been active Tande of the contradiction of the call office. night watchmen—officers of every grade, true whigs, who have always been active [and cfi-cient in party labors, were ejected because the could not conform to their new standard of political

The heads of departments at Washington,

action.

The heads of departments at Washington, and finally the President himself, took part in these measures, by removing from office throughout the State, marshals, collectors, postmasters and others, whom Gen. Taylor was supposed to have appointed from among Mr. Seward's political friends.

Throughout the administration of Mr. Fillmore thus far, there has been an active and systematic endeavor to break down, and eject from the whig party, the whig Senator from this State, and all who are supposed to hold his opinions or his character in any degree of respect. So far from making any secret of this purpose, the special organs of the executive have always proclaimed it; and instead of denying it now, they distinctly avow it as entitling them to the confidence and support of the South. They insist that the battle has been fought, and that the victory rests with them. They point exultingly to the fact, that they have extinguished forever the political influence of Mr. Seward, as giving them special title to the affection and vote of the Southern States.

This is the view which prevails very generally among the northern whigs, of the policy and tendency of the administration of Mr. Fillmore. It is

This is the view which prevails very generally among the northern whigs, of the policy and tendency of the administration of Mr. Fillmore. It is very widely believed that he has directed the whole weight of his position, and the whole power of his patronage, to the political destruction of Mr. Seward, and to the exclusion from the whig party of all who share in any degree his sentiments and opinions. And those who will consider the facts we have set forth in this historical sketch, or even given weight to the representations and claims of his organs and friends, will readily see that there is abundant room for presuming that Mr. Fillmore will neither ask, nor expect, a full, cordial and enthusiastic support from the great body of those whom he has thus branded as abolitionists and traitors.

There is, of course, no reason to doubt that the leading whigs of this State will feel bound by the decision of the whig national convention, and will do what they can towards securing the election of its nominee. But they feel, nevertheless, that in Mr. Fillmore's case, they will be required to "conquer prejudices" on the part of many which may prove too stubborn for success; that in so large and so closely divided a State, where a few thousand

prove too stubborn for success; that in so large and so closely divided a State, where a few thousand totes will be quite sufficient to turn the scale, it would be wisdom, on the part of the convention, if it seeks the welfare and success of the whig party, to consider candidly, and to weigh fairly, the circumstances under which they would be compelled to enter upon the canvass, should Mr. Fillmore be fixed upon them for re-election. Very many of the most sagacious men among them believe, that considerate whigs at the South must see abundant reason for thinking that the vote of New Yerk could not be commanded for him.

Nor is the force of these considerations limited to this State. The root of this envenomed hostility to

commanded for him.

Nor is the force of these considerations limited to this State. The root of this envenomed hostility to Mr. Seward and his friends is their acknowledged dislike of slavery, and their unwillingness to extend the area of its power beyond the bounds fixed for it by the constitution. That sentiment is not confined to New York; nor is the warfare waged against it limited, in its effects, by the boundaries of that State. It is felt still more strongly in Ohio and in New England than in New York, and will produce there also the same results. Those worthy men who suppose they have extirpated from the public heart all attachment to this principle, fall into an error—one which will vitiate all the calculations of party success which they may make upon this basis. If a Presidential nomination is made upon other grounds, and without special reference to these issues, they will be allowed to sleep. The whigs of the North have no desire to renew the strife upon them, and will gladly avoid all controversy and agitation concerning them, if they are allowed to do so. If, however, the whigs of the South refuse thus to allow the subject of slavery to remain untouched—if they insist on thrusting it again into the agitation and issues of a Presidential contest—and if they demand such a nomination as will inevitably renew the agitation, and again throw open all the controversies now happily settled, they ought not to be allowed to do it under any missperelension of the inevitable result. They ought to see distinctly that the whig party of the Northern States is not made up of the material which the accomplishment of their purposes would require. aterial which the accomplishment of their pur

Of course these considerations will have no weight with those ultraists of the South who are helding a pesition of "armed neutrality," for the purpess of selling their services to that party which will bid highest for their support. Their views and purposes would not be served by the election of a whig President, unless he should be their confederate and tool. And the very fact that a whig sandidate should promise to unite the party and to receive the support.

tool. And the very fact that a whig candidate should promise to unite the party, and to receive the support of Northern whigs, would alienate them, and drive them into other alliances.

But the great body of the whigs of the South still feel that theirs is a national, and not a sectional party; that its success can only be promoted by harmony and mutual consideration; and that no policy can be wise which threatens division, instead of union. They will see the wisdom of selecting a candidate with national views and a national strength, and not from motives either of sectional ambition, or of sectional animosity.

The Fugitive Slave Law in Massachusetts

The following indicates the movement in Masachusetts relative to this law:—
MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE, MARCH 27, 1852.— SENATE.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Burton. Mr. Sewall.
from the special committees on the resolutions of
Delaware, &c., reperted a bill for the further protection of personal liberty, giving jury trial to fugitive slaves as follows:—

beliaware, &c., reperied a bill for the lurther protection of personal liberty, giving jury trial to fugitive slaves, as follows:—

An act further to protect personal liberty.

Sec. 1. The governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint, in every county, one or more commissioners learned in the law, whose duty it shall be, in their respective counties, when any person in this State is arrested or seized, or in danger of being arrested or seized as a fugitive slave, on being informed thereof, diligently and faithfully to use all lawful means to protect, defend, and procure the discharge of every such person.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the clerks of courts in their respective counties and of any justice of the peace in any county in which any person may be arrested or imprisoned as a fugitive slave, on the petition of any such commissioners or any other person setting forth that he is informed and believes that any person, whose name, if known, shall be given in the petition, is arrested or imprisoned in any place within the county as a fugitive slave, by

any persen, whose name if known shall be given, which petition shall be verified by the oath of the petitioner, it shall thereupon be the duty of the clerk or justice to issue a writ of habas corpus in favor of the person claimed as a fugitive slave, under the seal of the Supreme Judicial Court, or the seal of the said justice in the same form and manner, as nearly as may be, as is directed in the 111th chapter of the Revised Statutes, and said writ shall be returnable forthwith to the Supreme Judicial Court, if in session, in the county in which the person claimed as a fugitive slave may be when the writ is issued, and if not so in session, before any justice of the said court.

said court.
See. 3. It shall be the duty of all judicial executive officers in this commonwealth in their respective counties, who shall know or have good reason to believe that any person in the commonwealth is about to be arrested as a jugitive, forthwith to give notice thereof to some commissioner of the county in which the said person resides or may be found.

the county in which the said person resides or may be found.

Sec. 4. If when the hearing before any judge in vacation of any writ of habeas corpus, issued in favor of any person claimed as a fugitive slave, he shall not be discharged by the judge; he may appeal from such decision, and claim a trial by jury, which shall be had at the next term of the court in the same county, or at any adjourned session of said court before the next term; and the person so claimed as a fugitive may give bail to the claimant for his appearance in such sum as the judge shall deem sufficient, not exceeding one thousand dollars, with one or more securities to the satisfaction of the judge; and in default of such bail, he shall be committed to the court to which such appeal is taken, and any court to which a writ of habeas corpus is returnable, in any ease under this act, may be, and shall, on application of either party, grant a trial by jury on all questions of fact in issue between the parties.

Sec. 7. The commissioners shall defray all ex-

Sec. 7. The commissioners shall defray all exsec. 7. The commissioners shall derray all ex-penses of witnesses, clerks fees, officers fees, and their expenses, which may be incurred in the protec-tion and defence of any person arrested as a fugitive slave; and the same, together with the reasonable charges the commissioner, for his services as attor-ney and counsel in the case, shall be paid by the State Treasurer, on a warrant to be issued by the Governor.

## Views from Florida on the Presidency and Northern Appointments—Letter from Mr. Cabell.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 20, 1852. MY DEAR SIR-I have read with interest the article headed "The Presidency," in the State Register of the 13th, which you did me the favor to

There is no doubt of the correctness of the opinion expressed in that article, that the course of the anti-Fillmore whigs of New York and other Northern States is calculated to disintegrate the national

whig party.

The measures and policy of Mr. Fillmore's administration, unconnected with questions relating directly or indirectly to the subject of slavery, have received the unqualified approval of the entire whig party of the country, and his administration has commanded the respect and admiration of the great mass of the democratic party. And yet it is said that, if a candidate for the Presidency, he would lose the vote of the State of New York by a large majority, while any other whig could easily carry the State. This is an extraordinary declaration and startling fact, if true. Whenever Mr. Fillmore has been before the people of New York, he has proved at least as strong as his own party, and the only ground of objection to him, and cause of unpopularity now, is that he did not violate one of the articles of faith in the creed of the mass of the whigs of New York. He refused to veto acts of Congress, which observant men of all sections admit were essential to the preservation of the peace of the country, to a continuance of good feeling between the different sections of the Union, and even to the existence of the government, and which were passed pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, and to carry into effect one of its express provisions. Disguise it as you may, the only real causes of hostility to Mr. Fillmore, with his own party, are that he did not veto the Compromise bills, and that he removed from office men, who he was informed, in some cases, were unwilling to execute the laws of the land. Now, sir, if the sectional animosities of your people to the South are such that an able, honest, patrietie northern man is to be put down by northern men, merely because he has discharged plain, constituwhig party.

The measures and policy of Mr. Fillmore's adnorthern man is to be put down by northern men, merely because he has discharged plain, constitutional whig duties, there can be no longer any sympathy of feeling, or co-operation of action between the parties North and South, and for this you, and not we, will be responsible.

pathy of feeling, or co-operation of action between the parties North and South, and for this you, and not we, will be responsible.

A few Northern whig politicians, looking only to expediency or availability, or it may be to benefits to accrue to themselves from the election of some other whig, are willing to sacrifice Mr. Fillmore for a candidate who can get more abolition votes, and enough to elect him. But if the whig convention listen to the fatal suggestions of these geutlemen, it will be utterly impossible to maintain a whig party in the Southern States. The best men of our party, and the people generally, would and should in dignantly repudiate a nomination made from such considerations. There will not be found men of respectability to risk their reputation on an electoral ticket in favor of such a candidate, in more than one Southern State which will give large majorities for a whig nominee standing on broad national ground. A nomination made with a view to secure the support of the free soil party, and thus to continue sectional strife, will be the signal for a dissolution of the whig party. Southern whigs could no longer act with a party, which would thus be virtually resolved into a free soil faction. The same will be true of the democratic party, should the delegates to the Raltimore Convention make, a nomination on

the whig party. Southern whigs could no longer act with a party, which would thus be virtually resolved into a free soil faction. The same will be true of the democratic party, should the delegates to the Baltimore Cenvention make a nomination on like unpatriotic principles.

My acquaintance in the non-slaveholding States is limited, but I have seen enough of Northern men to feel assured that there is in every State a large class of national men, who will join the Whigs of the South to prevent so fatal a consummation as the success of a candidate of either party, who may be nominated because he can secure the votes of abolitionists, which will not be given to such men as Mr. Fillmore.

Never was there so general a sentiment in favor of the clection of any man to a political office, as that of the Southern whigs for Mr. Fillmore. With one accord they desire to cast their votes for him, and there are thousands of Southern Union democrats who will cheerfully vote for him, because he has been tried, and in the fearful crisis through which we have passed, he has proved himself equal to any emergency, a patriot wholly uninfluenced by sectional considerations, and a President determined to do justice to all parts of the country, and fearlessly to execute the law. We make no sectional issues, we do not even wish to vote for a man from our section of the Union, but with one voice we ask Northly to execute the law. We make no sectional issues, we do not even wish to vote for a man from our section of the Union, but with one voice we ask Northern men to unite with us in the election of a Northern man, not because he has shown any special partiality to the South, but simply because he has proved himself a national man, and has done his duty-nothing more—to all.

In conclusion, I will call your attention to a fact

In conclusion, I will call your attention to a fact which should have effect on those who desire the adoption of political measures more than the election of a particular individual. The Senate of the United States consists of sixty-two members, of whom twenty-four are whigs, fourteen from the Southern States, and but ten, including Mr. Seward, from the North and Northwest. Should the whig convention succeed in sectionalizing the party, by attempting to curry favor with free soilers, and refuse to nominate Mr. Fillmore, or some one else, known by his acts to occupy the same national and constitutional position, the whig party, as a party, thus pervented, would and should cease to exist in the Southern States. Southern whigs would not abandon the principles for which they have heretofore centended, but would form national associations, in place of principles for which they have heretofore contended, but would form national associations, in place of those which such sectional party action necessarily dissolves, and I venture my life there will not be one man acting with this northern sectional party, calling itself whig, whose term expires within four years, returned to the Senate from a Southern State. You cannot hope to secure the Senate, without the aid of Southern votes, for all experience has shown that Northern democrats are specially skillful in playing for the votes of free soilers and abolitionists. This is a consideration deserving the attention of party men, and may influence their ac-tion, if they disregard higher and nobler feelings of patriotism and nationality.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, E. R. JEWETT, Esq. E. C. Cast

Our Washington Correspondence. WASHINGTON, March 30, 1852

Renewal of the Fugitive Slave Law Agitation The Alarm among the Free Soilers occasioned b Filimore's Chances at the South-Com. Stockton' Speech and Chances for the Presidency, &c.

The presentation of a batch of petitions for the epeal of the Fugitive Slave law, in the Senate, on Vednesday, by Messra. Seward and Hales, may b considered as a significant feature in the present position of the whig party, relating to its selection of of a Presidential candidate. Thus far, during the present session, these gentlemen have carefully abstained from agitating this question. It is well known that they have had a large number of these petitions in their possession over since the commencement of the session, some three or four of which, only, were presented, during the first and second weeks in December. Seward has been willing to abstain from further agitation of the slavery question, provided the Southern whigs would consent to take his candidate, Gen. Scott, without any endorse-ment of the Compromise. Hale's object in suppress-ing the anti-fugitive petitions sent to him, has been

net to give effence to the administration branch of the late scalition in New Hampshire, and thus jeopardise his chances for a re-clection to the United States Senate. But since it has become apparent that the Southern whigs are almost unanimous in favor of Mr. Fillmore, and that they are indisposed to support Gen. Sout without some endorsement of the compromise; and since the people of New Hampshire have so emphatically pronounced in favor of those measures, and sent Hale into political oblivion, it seems that there is to be a renewal of the slavery agitation on the part of those distinguished "woolly-heads." Mr. Seward presented five petitions on Wednesday, praying for repeal, and Mr. Hale one, which were laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Norris, of New Hampshire, by a vote of 33 to 11. Another petition presented by Seward, praying that Congress would adopt such measures as would result in the extinction of alwery in the United States, was similarly disposed of by the still more decisive vote of 36 to 6.

All this would seem to indicate that the "woolly-head" whig leaders have finally determined to carry out a threat, published some weeks since in the New York Tribune, and endorsed by the Datroit Tribune, that, if the Southern whigs will not take Scott, without the compromise, the Northern woolly-heads will bid them good-bye, and elect him "on their own hook." The late improvement in Mr. Fillmore's prospects has evidently waked Mr. Seward up, and we may soon expect to have a full-blast revival of the slavery agitation, if he and his organs can get one up—all for Gen. Scott's benefit, of course.

The late splendid speech of Commodore Stockton,

more's prospects has evidently waked Mr. Seward up, and we may soon expect to have a full-blast revival of the slavery agitation, if he and his organs can get one up—all for Gen. Scott's benefit, of course.

The late splendid speech of Commodore Stockton, at Trenton, in favor of Webster, the tariff, the federal party, the democratic party, economy, and his great grand children, augurs favorably for his nomination, by the democratic in Baltimore, in a certain contingency, or the whigs in Philadelphia in a positive contingency. It is believed by many, that if the Baltimore Convention cannot agree upon either of the prominent democratic candidates now spoken of, and Gen. Scott is likely to be dropped by the whigs, the Commodore would be the most suitable person to be nominated by both conventions. The Commodore is a military man, a naval man, and every sort of a man, and is evidently fond of "soup." While the General is averse to expressing his political opinions, "to the great disgust of the public," (excepting semi-occasionally,) the Commodore informs us that "his polities do not hang very loosely on his shoulders." He is not "mealy-mouthed,! he says, either, in going for a protective tariff. Why should he be, since "it was always a democratic mensure"—the first resolution being introduced "by Mr. Wilson," whom no one will doubt was a democrat—a man of eminence and worth—the leader of the democracy in New Jersey? Again, the Commodore assures us that his father was a federalist—that he himself was "brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, in the straitest seets of federalism," and that he always has been a federalist. At the same time, he wants to see the country brought back "to the simplicity and conomy of the days of Jefferson," &c., &c.

Now, who can doubt, after reading his late speech, that the Commodore is the trump card—the very man to whip "old fuss and feathers" all to pieces with, and give him odds at that? The "Jersey blue" combines more of the elements of availability than any other candidate in the field

like angels collequies—for what but such music as his could be the veriacular of the spirit-land, the universal language of the soul."

The rumor of the late quarrel in the cabinet is still generally believed, although semi-officially denied by the administration organs. The story now goes that Secretary Corwin and Postmaster Hall toth wished to apply to Congress to make an app opriation for additional clerks in their departments, but feared that two applications would not be granted. Mr. Corwin insisted on having the cided in favor of the latter.

The printing of the President's message and accompanying documents, ordered at the commencement of the present session, would seem to have been postponed until after the Presidential election, if not indefinitely. Thus far, only the bills, calendars and a few short reports of committees, have made their appearance. The delay has already cost the government more than enough to sustain half a dozen well regulated government printing bureaus, (after the plan proposed by the Herald,) during a session of Congress. As the work has been performed for a few years past under the contract system, it is furnished at so late a period that combined with the trouble to distribute to the transparent will not take the trouble to distribute the contract system, it is furnished at so late a period that tract system, it is furnished at so late a period that members will not take the trouble to distribute members will not take the trouble to distribute documents, considering them of about as much value as so many last year's almanaes. They are, therefore, piled up for a time in the public buildings, and finally sold by somebody for waste-paper, to the storekeepers. There is scarcely a store on the avenue which has not at the present moment a full supply. This is the way the people's money goes, under the contract system.

P.

Great Row among the Irish at Lockport.

Great Row among the Irish at Lockport.
THE MILITARY CALLED OUT—OVER ONE HUNDRED MEN ARRESTED.

[From the Lockport Courier, March 30.]
The Irish settlement up the canal, was yesterday the scene of another disgraceful row. The Galway men, who have been assaulted on several occasions by the Mayo men, having their shanties torn down and burned, and their property destroyed, assembled in a large body determined to avenge their wrongs by a fearful retaliation. Having organized themselves, they proceeded to the homes of their antagonists and demolished their shanties and property without stint. The men being mostly absent at work, they repaired to where they were, and most shamefully assaulted them with clubs, stones, &c., wounding several, but none fatally, as we are glad to learn. Intelligence of these doings having been communicated to Sheriff Clapp, and it being also stated that the rioters were in large force, and prepared to resist the execution of the law; the military were called out, and three bodies of armed men, with the police force of the village, proceeded to the received control of the law; the property of the target of the second of the law; the military were called out, and three bodies of armed men, with the police force of the village, proceeded to the received out. military were called out, and three bodies of armed men, with the police force of the village, proceeded to the ground, and succeeded in arresting one hundred and seven of the rioters. About eighty were brought down last night at 12 o'clock, and lodged in jail, and the balance were committed this morning. The police officers who went up yesterday arrived there some time in advance of the posse, and note their carrents as wall heads of men where morning. The police officers who went up yesterday arrived there some time in advance of the posse, and upon their approach a small body of men, whom they knew to be engaged in the disturbance, started and ran for the woods. The officers took after them, but they soon discovered that it would be impossible to overtake them and turned about, but no sooner had they done so than the retreating men also retraced their steps, and came up brandishing their clubs, displayed fire-arms, and one of them fired off his gun into the air. The officers expostulated with them and succeeded in keeping them quiet until he arrival of the armed band when they were taken prisoners. We understand that all of the ringleaders and the most troublesome and malicious of the he arrival of the armed band when they were taken prisoners. We understand that all of the ringleaders and the meat troublesome and malicious of the band have been excested, and it is to be hoped they will be made examples of. Though the party new arrested were not the original instigators of these troubles, still they were acting in violation of the laws and must pay the penalty. The companies who volunteered to aid the civil authorities on this occasion were the Emmett Guards, the Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, and Engine Company, No. 1. The majority of these were detained all night in the cold, and they deserve much credit for their heroism and self-sacrifice. It is to be hoped that there will, in future, be no occasion for another trial of the patriotism of our citizens. The frequent occurrence of these outrages is a disgrace and reproach to our village, and it is the desire of all that the originators of them may be treated with the utmost vigor of the law.

THE NEW BAR IN THE HUDSON RIVER.—The Albany Ereming Journal, of the 31st March, says.—The obstructions to river navigation, in the form of an island thrown up by the current and ice during the past season appears to be of a character that calls for prompt and energetic action on the part of all interested in the welfare of this city and its business. The hindrance to navigation appears upon subsequent examination, to be equal to the first impressions in regard to it—and although a new channel has been formed, it is not of sufficient capacity to accommodate even the larger class of steamers, much less the ordinary tows that are daily dispatched to and from this eity. The regular steamers are delayed on their trips, and for the several days that navigation has been resumed, a pertion of the time of the passenger boats has been passed upon this bar, or in endeavers to evade it. Many experienced navigators are firm in the impression that the bar will be a greater nulsance than it has been for a number of years. This condition of the river certainly calls for prompt and united action on the part of all connected with the navigating interests here or elsewhere. It has been suggested—and very properly—that a public meeting be called to decide upon some course of action by which the observed.

spreme Court of the United States.

No. 197.—The United States, appellants, Francis P. Ferreira, administrator of Francis, decased.—On appeal from the District Cof the United States for the northern district Florids.

Mr. Chief Justiee Taney delivered the opinion of the Court.—This purports to be an appeal from the District Court of the United States for the northern district of Florida. The case brought before the District Court of the United States, contains the following stipulation, in the ninth article:—The treaty of 1819, by which Spain coded Florida. The case brought before the following stipulation, in the ninth article article in the property of the state of the treaty of the spanish of the state of the injuries, if any, which, by the late operations of the American army in Florida.

In 1823, Congress passed an act to carry into execution this article of the treaty abovement of the law authorizes the Judges of the Superior Courte established at 8t. Augustine and Pensacola, within their respective indiges that the treaty abovementioned; and the second section provides that, in all cases where the Judges shall decide in favor of the claimants, the decisions, with the evidence on which they are founded, shall be by the said Judges reported to the Secretary of the Treasury, who, on being satisfied that the same is just and equitable, and within the provisions of the treaty, shall pay the amount thereof to the person or persons in whose favor the same is adjudged. Under this law with Secretary of the Treasury hall that it did not apply to injuries suffered from the causes mentioned in the treaty in 1812 and 1813, but innitiation the sufficiency of the Treasury shall pay the amount hereof to the person or persons in whose favor the same is adjudged. Under this law decision, another law was passed in 1834, extending the claims to one year from the passage of the act. This law embraced the claim of the present in fall 2 and 1813, but limit and the sufficiency of the Treasury shall pay the amount pay the amount pay the amount pay to the passage of the act. This law embraced the claim of the present in the sufficiency of the Treasury as in other cases under the said and their cases has been docked there as an appeal from the secretary, out not upon that of the judge. It is too evident for argument on the subject, that such a tribunal is not a judicial one, and that the act of Congress did not intend to make it one. The authority conferred on the respective judges was nothing more than that of a commissioner to adjust certain claims against the United States, and the office of judges and their respective jurisdictions, are referred to in the law, merely as a designation of the persons to whom the authority is confided, and the territorial limits to which it extends. His decision is not the judgment of a court of justice. It is the award of a commissioner. The act of 1834 calls it an award. And an appeal to this court from such a decision, by such an authority asfrom the judgment of a court of record, would be an anomaly in the history of jurisprudence. An appeal might as well have been taken from the awards of the board of commissioners under the Mexican treaty, which were recently settled in this city. Nor can we see any ground for objection evident for argument on the subject, that such a tri

record, wound be an anomaly in the history of jurisprudence. An appeal might as well have been taken
from the awards of the board of commissioners under
the Mexican treaty, which were recently settled in
this city. Nor can we see any ground for objection
to the power of revision and control given to the
Secretary of the Treasury. When the United States
consent to submit the adjustment of claims against
them to any tribunal, they have a right to prescribe
the conditions on which they will pay, and they have
the right, therefore, to make the approval of the
award by the Secretary of the Treasury one of the
conditions on which they would agree to be liable.
No claim, therefore, is due from the United States
until it is sanctioned by him; and his decision against
the claimant for the whole or a part of a claim as
allowed by the judge is final and conclusive. It
cannot afterwards be disturbed by an appeal to this
or any other court, or in any other way, without the
authority of an act of Congress. It is said, however, on the part of the claimant, that the treaty
requires that the injured parties should have an opportunity of establishing their claims by process of
law; that process of law means a judicial proceeding
in a court of justice; and that the right of supervision given to the Secretary over the decision of
the District Judge, is therefore a violation of the
treaty. The Court think differently; and that the
government of this country is not liable to the reproach of having broken its faith with Spain. The
tribunals established are substantially the same as
those usually created where one nation agrees by
treaty to pay debt or damages which may be found
due to the citizens of another country. This treaty
mean nothing more than the tribunal and mode of
proceeding ordinarily established on such occasions,
and well known and well understood when treaty
obligations of this description are undertaken. But
if it were admitted to be otherwise, it is a question
between Spain and that department of the gover for if this tribunal is manthorized, the awards are of no value. The proceeding we are now considering, it is true, did not take place before one of the territorial judges, but before a district judge of the territorial judges, but before a district judge of the United States. But that circumstance can make no difference, for the act of 1849 authorizes him to receive and adjudicate the claims of the persons mentioned in the act of 1834, and provides that these claims may be settled at the Treasury, as other cases under the said act. It conferred on the District Judge, therefore, the same power and the same character, and imposes on him the same duty, that had been conferred and imposed on the Territorial Judges before Florida became a State. As it was not a judicial function, we do not say that the Judge was bound to perform it. But if he did execute it, the fact that he was a Judge, would not alter the character in which the

law auther/sed him to act. It would not convert the adjustmant of a claim as commissioner additor of security since the picture of a special still the basic of accounts into the his control of the cont ight exercise in the character and which might constitutionally be subjected to the revision and control of the Secretary. After the decisions thus made in 1792, and ac-quiesced in at the time by the other departments of the government, we think that the question must be regarded as settled, and not now open to contro-versy under the act of 1823.

the government, we think that the question must be regarded as settled, and not now open to contreversy under the act of 1823.

Independently of these objections, we are at some loss to understand how this case could legally be transmitted to this court, and certified as a transcript of a record in the District Court. According to the directions of the Act of Congress, the decision of the Judge, and the evidence on which it is founded ought to have been transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury. They are not to remain in the District Court, nor to be recorded there. They legally belong to the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, and not to the Court: and a copy from the clerk of the latter, would not be evidence in any court of justice. There is no record of the proceedings in the District Court, of which a a transcript can legally be made and certified; and consequently there is no transcript now before us that we can recognize as evidence of any proceeding or judgment in that court.

The appeal must be dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

Marine Affairs.

Another Quick This from China.—The clipper ship N. B. Palmer, Capt. Low, arrived, Thursday, from Whampoa, in the short space of eighty-four days. We are informed the passage home was to be contested between the Flying Cloud and the Palmer. The arrival of the latter has decided it in her favor by several days, as she left Whampon three days after her rival, who has not yet made her appearance. The Flying Cloud is reported as having passed Anjier on the 14th of January, one day previous to the Palmer. Messrs. Westervelt & Mackay are the builders of the Palmer; her owners are A. Low & Co. The Flying Cloud was built by Mr. Donald M'Kay, of East Boston, and owned by Messrs, Grinnell, Mint

Good Passages -The packetship Northumberland, Capt. Lord, arrived on Thursday from London, reports making the passage from Portsmouth in sixteen days, having left that port on the 15th of March. Our London shipping papers, however, by the Canada, give the North and's departure from Portsmouth on the 13th, thu making her time eighteen days—a passage, however, which is but seldom equalled and very seldom beaten. In addition to this, we are informed that her last two passages (out and home) were made in the short space of thirty days.

Washington navy yard have been made, which would seem to establish the unfitness of iron as a material for the hulls of vessels of war. A condemned iron vessel wa the hulls of vessels of war. A condemned iron vessel war procured, an eight inch shell was fired at her from a sity-six pounder gus, at a distance of three hundred and sity yards. The shell went clear through both the sides of the vessel, tearing large ragged holes, (much larger than the diameter of the shell, and too 'tregular for plugging') and scattering small and jagged fragments of iron, which, in an action, would be likely to prove more dangerous to her own crew than the shot from an enemy's battery. Another shell fired at her wooden bulwarks made only a clean round hole.

Naval Intelligence.

The following is a list of the officers of the steamship Lexington, which was at San Francisco, 29th ult :--William Radford, Lieut, Commanding, J. Stuart, Acting Master; J. C. Hunter, Purser; James Suddards, Assistant Surggon; Thomas Fillebrown, Dawson Phenix, and G. S. King, Passed Midshipmen; E. St. Clair Clarke, Captain's Clerk.

The following is a list of the officers of the sloop-of-war

St. Mary's, which sailed from San Francisco on the 1st instant, for the East Indies:—George Magrader, Cominstant, for the East Indies:—George Magrader, Com-mander; James S. Biddle, Lieutenant; Robert E. Wat-son, Lieutenant; T. J. Corbin, Act. Lieutenant; A. E. Watson, Purser; John J. Abernethy, Surgeon; Homer G. Riake, Act. Master; Geo. R. Graham, Marine Officer; Richard B. Tunstall, Asst. Surgeon; Jonathan Young, Dulany A. Forrest, Passed Midshipmen; John Curry, Captain's Clerk; James A. Green, Benjamin P. Lorall, William H. Ward, Midshipmen; James Meade, Carpenter Wm. B. Fugitt, Salmaker; James Hutchinson, Ace Gunner; John J. R. West, Act. Boatswair.